



Benelux Meteor

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Quick Read

In General

Protest scheduled

A world-wide day of protest in multiple major cities is scheduled March 20 to coincide with the anniversary of the beginning of the Iraq War. Approximately 10,000-15,000 people are expected in the Brussels demonstration to begin at 2 p.m. at Gare Nord (North train station.) Info: Kim Perino, 80th ASG AT/FP Program Manager, DSN 361-5580 or commercial 068 27-5580.

Track slippery roads

This Web link may be useful in tracking winter road conditions throughout USAREUR ASG and BSB areas: <https://www.g3.hqusareur.army.mil/divisions/ops/asgconditions/>

Belgium

Traffic disrupted

The City of Jurbise has begun sewer line construction on the Chemin des Princes. Traffic will be prohibited on Chemin des Princes from Route d'Ath to the crossroads with Rue des Déportés. The project will take about one year to complete. Info: SHAPE Federal Police, 065 449202.

Women's history shared

A Women's History Month Fair is March 27, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Chièvres Post Exchange. Learn something and have fun while doing so. Info: 80th Area Support Group Equal Employment Opportunity Office, DSN 361-5281 or civilian 068 27-5281.

Tableau presented

NSA Chapel presents a Living Last Supper performance April 1, 7 p.m., in the chapel; special "Tenebre" service April 9, 7 p.m.; combined Easter service and luncheon April 11, 10:45 a.m. Info: 02 717-9708.

Netherlands and Germany

Women celebrated

Tri-border Special Emphasis Program committee hosts a luncheon honoring women who inspire hope and possibility, March 23, noon - 1:30 p.m., at the International Inn, Cost is Euro 10. Info: DSN 364-6240.

Civilians called to get fit

The Civilian Fitness Program kicks off a new session with an assessment period, March 25, 9 a.m.-noon, in the Fitness Center in Schinnen. Info: DSN 423-5979 or civilian 0032-065-44-5779.



Photo illustration by Rick Haverinen, F. Neil Neeley

Vehicle misuse has multiple costs for government, abusers

By Rick Haverinen

Community leaders in the 80th Area Support Group want users of government vehicles to remember that "for official use only" means just that.

"There have been some misunderstandings, I would call it, among military and civilian members of the U.S. forces regarding the use of (transportation motor pool) vehicles," said Ken Hughes, the 80th ASG's Assistant Civilian Misconduct Authority. "The main questions are coming down to authorized uses. The bottom line answer is, it's got to be official business."

While private use of government vehicles is not rampant within the 80th ASG, there have been enough instances of misuse over the last three months to raise concern and awareness.

"We've had people taking vehicles home, putting them in the garage, parking them in their driveway, people running their spouses to the airport to catch a plane," listed the 80th's Director of Logistics, Clarence Hammond, "people trying to use the vehicles from domicile to duty, (which is) strictly unauthorized, personal convenience shopping, using it for points serviced by the shuttle bus, when you're supposed to use the shuttle bus, basically making unauthorized trips."

There is flexibility built into the system that allows a particular class of users to take government vehicles to select places where the rest

of the population may not go with them. One group that can use the government vehicles a little differently than others is members of any deployed Army Reserve or National Guard task force providing force protection services in the area.

"They have certain logistical needs such as food, bathing, showering, supplies, stuff that needs to be obtained," Hughes said, "and then you get into specifics such as when can you use a government vehicle to obtain these services? There are policy letters out that let the folks know when they can in fact use a government vehicle for these services. But some folks take it beyond that policy letter and to a point where it's abused, that's where the problems come in."

Hammond said one driver used a government vehicle for a pleasure trip to a tourist destination.

"Some people don't think they're misusing vehicles," Hammond said. "One of the most

common we have is personnel that are supposed to be performing official duties with government vehicles, but they're going to the commissary, they're going to the PX, they're taking the vehicles home, they're making personal runs on all kinds of things, and this is misuse of government vehicles. These are for official use

only. And that's one thing that we've been trying to crack down on."

Hammond said when vehicle misuse is detected it is referred to the commander if the sus-

pected abuser is active duty or the person's supervisor if the suspected abuser is a civilian employee. Hammond, the commander or the supervisor can also refer the matter to Hughes to coordinate an investigation.

Hammond said vehicle misuse can be detected by paperwork traces within his transportation division, and the occasional tip from a community member who spots something that looks wrong.

"It comes from the whole community," Hammond said. "We have people even email us and say, 'I've seen this vehicle here at this person's house.' It's a community effort. It's not just DOL.

We're not out running behind people to see what they're doing with vehicles. But if we see it, or anybody else sees it, they need to report it."

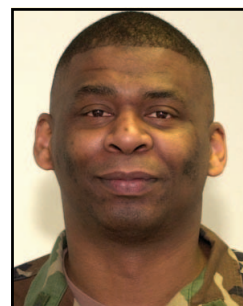
Because they have unique license plates, government vehicles are something like a red flag that draws attention, and that scrutiny comes from perceptions of community members.

"A lot of (vehicle misuse) isn't reported and sometimes what is reported is merely perception," Hughes said. "You know, a member of the public sees a government vehicle in the PX parking lot and right away they're going to say, 'Ah, there it is again. Somebody's abusing a government vehicle.' That person may be making a (legitimate) purchase over at the PX, they may have some other business at the PX, or they could be (doing personal) shopping. It could be wrong or it could be authorized. But

See MISUSED on Page 7



Hughes



Lee



Hammond

Military dog retires to new home

By. F. Neil Neeley

Sometime old war dogs don't just fade away, they are adopted out to loving homes. Rocky, an 11 year-old Belgian malinois police dog is retiring because of health problems and is no longer fit enough to work. He's a lucky dog, though. He'll be adopted by his handler, Staff Sgt. John Ciurana of the 230th MP Co. canine unit.

Ciurana has been Rocky's handler for the past four years.

"Rocky is great with kids," says Ciurana. He'll become a welcome addition to the Ciurana family. "Oh, they love him," Ciurana says.

Although Rocky has been trained to bite, Ciurana feels comfortable about having him around his wife and newborn son. "I trust him 100 percent," he said.

Ciurana has good reason to trust Rocky around his family. Before a working dog can be adopted out he must go through an evaluation and be put through a series of controlled activates to make sure that the dog will not bite. Rocky passed the evaluation and was certified that he was good to take home.

"He's just deteriorated over the years, he's not a biter anymore," said Ciurana.

Rocky's new pal will be Ciurana's other dog, a one year-old German shepherd. "Rocky gets along great with him," said Ciurana.

If Ciurana hadn't decided to adopt Rocky, every effort would have been made to find a home for him.

"What they do is they call police departments to see if they want a working dog," he said. He can go to anybody, but they have to be screened. Only if no one wants him would they have to euthanize him.

Ciurana is Rocky's fourth handler.

"I'm here now, but when I come back from Iraq, I'm probably going to Texas. Rocky will follow Ciurana from station to station whenever he goes for the rest of his military career. Ciurana has been in the military for almost eight years so Rocky will move about for up

to 12 more years.

Rocky was raised in Stuttgart, Germany specifically to become a working dog. He was selected for training by the Army when he was just over a year old and was sent to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas for training as an explosive detection and patrol certified working dog.

Ciurana is proud of his pal and partner of four years. "He's a great dog. He's served his community for nine years." Rocky has been to Bosnia, Kosovo, and Antwerp. He's worked for VIPs such as Presidents Bush

and Clinton, Wesley Clark, Dick Gephardt, Queen Elizabeth, Colin Powell, Madeline Albright. He's visited countries such as Israel, Germany, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Luxemburg, Bosnia, Kosovo, and Macedonia.

Ciurana has a whole drawer full of coins given out by grateful customers for Rocky's service.

Ciurana said that even if he hadn't adopted Rocky there wouldn't have been a problem finding him a home. "He's loved throughout USAREUR," said Ciurana.



PHOTO: Rick Haverinen

Rocky the police dog will now have more time to play ball in his retirement since he has been adopted by his handler, Staff Sgt. John Ciurana.

'SNAP' expert says it's time to be watchful

Current world events require all U.S. personnel to maintain a high level of personal situational awareness. "This means when we travel to or from work or go shopping downtown, we need to stay aware of our surroundings and alert to the possibility of trouble," said Keisha Holmes, Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program (SNAP) coordinator at the USAREUR Office of the Provost Marshal. If you notice suspicious behavior, report it to your local Military Police, she advises.

What should I report?

You have a great asset to draw upon - your experience - when deciding what is suspicious. You know what is normal for your

neighborhood, and what is not. You know if something looks suspicious or potentially harmful to your security. If an event or some behavior seems to be outside the norm or causes you concern, tell the Military Police immediately. "Just remember, it's your job to watch and report," Holmes said. "Let the Military Police handle the situation and take the appropriate action. That is what they are trained to do."

What information should I give the Military Police?

It is helpful to give the most accurate description possible of the people or vehicles involved, say why you called and what exactly happened. One example of sus-

picious activity may be strangers conducting surveys or offering services in your neighborhood. Do not allow these people access to your quarters and do not answer probing questions such as, "Is your spouse home?" Immediately notify the Military Police. Holmes also advises people to use a peephole or intercom to identify people calling at the door and says you should never automatically open doors to strangers. Door-to-door solicitations are not authorized in government housing areas.

Should I wait until I talk to my spouse or neighbor before I call the Military Police?

Call the Military Police immediately.

Timely reports are essential in the investigative process. If notified soon enough, the Military Police can detain and identify suspicious people. If a suspicious person leaves before the Military Police arrive, the description you provide can make all the difference.

Remember, you can make a difference in your neighborhood. Stay alert!

For more security tips contact your local SNAP coordinator or Provost Marshal Office for details, or consult the SNAP Web site at www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/SNAP.htm.

The Army in Europe emergency MP number is DSN 114.



PHOTO: F. Neil Neeley

Scrum again?

SHAPE women's rugby team's Shelly Crossale fights off an attack by Gent during the first half of a game played at SHAPE March 13. SHAPE was plagued by blustery weather and injuries including a broken leg resulting in a lost to Gent 24-7. The SHAPE team plays seven other teams in the Belgian Rugby Federation. So far this season SHAPE has five wins, six loses and one tie. They next play La Hulpe March 20, 2:30 p.m., at SHAPE.

Beware of youth vacation offers

From a DoDDS media advisory

Spring recess for most DoDDS-Europe schools is April 5-9. During that time, DoDDS-E will not sponsor, sanction, or authorize any school trips or vacation excursions for students. This is a matter of policy and not related to any force protection concerns.

Each year, tour companies offer trips to a variety of vacation spots. Some are marketed as senior trips. Some ads can mislead parents to think the trips are sanctioned by DoDDS. That is not the case.

There may be legitimate trips offered by community agencies; however, they are in no way connected with DoDDS-Europe. There have been incidents when groups of seniors have arranged trips with tour companies without any coordination with school. When marketed as "Spring Trip for seniors", parents may mistakenly think the school is providing supervision. This is not the case.

DoDDS-Europe does not sanction any senior skip days or any senior trips during instructional time.

As a result of the heightened force protection concerns throughout Europe, parents need to carefully heed advisories warning U.S. citizens traveling throughout Europe when planning vacations this year.

The safety of our children must always be our main concern.

254th BSB Triborder news

Exercise tests emergency procedures



PHOTOS: Sandy Aubrey

The 254th Base Support Bn. Commander, Lt. Col. Deborah Broughton, participates in the tactical exercise without troops March 5. Wim Tholen, deputy chief of the Schinnen Fire Department, listens intently.



Left to right, Capt. John Lorenzen, S-3 officer, Maj. Andamo Ford, director of public works, Staff Sgt. Garry Ross, provost marshal operations sergeant, and Capt. Victoria Benson, provost marshal, work their plan books during the exercise.

By Sandy Aubrey

SCHINNEN, Netherlands – There was an explosion without noise, chaos with total order and pandemonium with calm constructive comments and observations. Such was the nature of the annual 254th Base Support Bn. mass casualty tactical exercise without troops (TEWT).

Due to extensive construction on the installation, this year's exercise March 5 was a combination paper and rock drill, with more than 25 players. The 254th BSB leadership

had to imagine it all as they walked through the four-hour exercise.

The 254th command group, directors and host nation emergency officials began the exercise in the lobby of the headquarters building with a notification of an explosion of a gas main at the Burger King. One by one, group members talked through the notification process, noting and correcting glitches to their individual plans and the overall plan. Next, the group went to the newly constructed emergency operations center (EOC) where they were briefed on EOC equipment capabilities, the EOC primary mission and the command and control aspects. One at a time, group members coordinated their functions, asked questions for clarity, and detailed their slice of the action. Next, the group walked to Burger King where they planned the on-site coordination of emergency services.

"Who did what, when, where, why and how, was answered," said Capt. John Lorenzen, S-3 officer, "but, much of the actual, versus planned, activities are dependent on the type of crisis, where the crisis occurs and what time of day it is. Primary and secondary sites are established, for instance, depending on what the incident is and where it occurs."

Although every answer to every question couldn't be included in the BSB plan, the great majority of crucial questions were answered during the exercise. Culminating with an after-action review, the exercise helped the BSB leadership grasp the full spectrum of their responsibilities. Each group member collected information to update their directorate plans, brief and exercise their people, and to provide to the S2-3 shop to update the overall plan.

"I think the exercise went very well," said Tom Nunn, plans and operations officer in the S-3 office. "It was useful to see how the standard operating procedures and Annex K of the force protection plan came together, and we were able to identify problems. The right questions were asked, and I think everybody got something out of it."



PHOTO: Capt. Julian Avent

Snow didn't keep 254th Base Support Bn. Soldiers from their land navigation/orienteering training Feb. 26. Sgt. 1st Class Lew Lewis, chaplains assistant and senior trainer, in a pre-exercise talk encouraged the Soldiers and gave them a thumbs up.

Snow falls, compass still finds north for 254th Soldiers

By Sandy Aubrey

BRUNSSUM, Netherlands – Neither rain nor snow kept 254th Base Support Bn. Soldiers from annual land navigation/orienteering training Feb. 26.

The exercise tested skills in map reading, proper use of a compass, and the ability to accurately navigate from one point to another on foot.

After a couple of weeks of five-hour classroom sessions where they learned the fine art of map reading, Soldiers were set to exercise their skills - it was time to test their mettle.

"There's really no replacement for hands-on land navigation training," said Staff Sgt. William Coleman, Directorate of Logistics NCOIC and classroom instructor.

It was -5 degrees Celsius that snowy morning when the Soldiers headed out to the wood line of AFNorth Sports Complex. The course the Soldiers navigated was five points of one-half kilometer each.

The training is part of an annual training program to keep Soldiers current on military skills.

254th BSB Local Calendar

Tri-border Girl Scouts seek volunteers to fill various positions. Anyone interested in helping the Girls Scouts should call Whitney Scott at 045 532-5979 or Teri Ryan at 046 443-7451.

TRICARE re-enrollment sometimes necessary - Dependents who have been in the U.S. for over 60 days during the member's deployment must re-enroll in TRICARE Europe upon their return. Visit the TRICARE Service Center on the second floor of the U.S. Clinic at Geilenkirchen - Nominations for the clinic's Volunteer of the Year are due by March 31. Categories are: family member, youth, sponsor, civilian (to include local nationals), military and family. For more information call Teri Ryan at 046 443-7451.

Club aids orphans in Afghanistan - Project Afghanistan, The American Spouses Club is collecting clothes, toys, linens, dishes, reading books, text books, school supplies, vitamins, Tylenol and pen

lights for the International Orphan Car in Kabul. Drop off donations at the U.S. Thrift Shop at Schinnen or the U.K. Thrift Shop at AFNorth.

Food International Orphan Care, Open to all students at AFNorth and Geilenkirchen. To participate, kids should draw a picture of themselves with their favorite food. Pictures and a can/box of the favorite food should be taken to the Thrift Shop at Schinnen. For more information call 046 443-7436.

Future Business Leaders of America hosts its annual State Leadership Conference March 24-26. The DoDDS Europe State Chapter is more than 20 FBLA chapters in Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Portugal, and the Middle East. The FBLA event organizers need judges for the events on March 25. Info: Bertha Manning, DSN 480-6951 or 06371 47-6951, Email: Bertha_manning@eu.odedodea.edu Scholarships available

Andrews Federal Credit Union offers a total of five, \$1,500 scholarships for members who qualify. Stop by Schinnen AFCU to find out application details or visit www.andrewsfcu.org/scholarship.htm.

Job available at Schinnen - The Directorate of Community Activities has a permanent, full time job opening for a recreation assistant GS-0189-5. For more information call the Benelux CPAC at 32 6827-5467 or visit Benelux.cpac@cpocur.army.mil.

Andrews Federal Credit Union has two positions open. Previous experience required. For more information call 046 443-7507.

There's a job vacancy in the delicatessen section at the Schinnen Commissary for American applicants. Stop by the commissary for more information.

Check out future drivers - Cub Scout Pack 100 holds a Pinewood Derby March 27, 10 a.m. at Schinnen Sports Center. Forty cars

go head-to-head in an all-out battle for top honors.

Shed pounds at TaeBo - TaeBo/aerobics classes are offered Mondays through Thursdays at the Schinnen Sports Center, 6-7 p.m. Sign up at the Fitness Center, call 0031-46-443-7561 for more information.

Check out the social scene - Join friends and colleagues at the Memories Lane social hour Fridays at 4 p.m.

News from the Bowling Center - Cosmic bowling Fridays, 6 p.m.; No Tap Tournaments Saturdays, 6 p.m., men 9 pins, women 8 pins, \$15 entry fee.

Support group meets - The New Parent Support Program Breastfeeding Support Group meets March 24, 10 - 11 a.m., ACS Conference Room, Building 39, Schinnen.

Toddlers gather at Schinnen - Schinnen Playgroup for Toddlers meets every Thursday, 9:30-11:30 a.m., at the Schinnen

Sports Center.

Free child screening offered - **Free** developmental screening service for babies through three years of age. All American-sponsored families are eligible. Call Mary Jo Rooney at 045 563-6126.

Club 13 offers live entertainment - Enjoy the warm guitar and soothing voice of Hank Slaughter rendering tunes by the Rolling Stones, Jimmy Buffett, Melissa Etheridge, Bon Jovi and Pink Floyd. Every Friday, 5:30 p.m. at Club 13 at AFNorth.

Adult classes set - Unless otherwise indicated, classes are held in ACS Building 39 at Schinnen, 046 443-7500: New Parent Education infant massage classes April 6 and 20, 10-11 a.m.; Employment Readiness Program has two workshops every Tuesday: "Finding Employment," 10 a.m.-noon, and "Hands on Resumix," 2-4 p.m.

Tax relief available - German VAT forms at Geilenkirchen are available for all NATO ID cardholders.

First responders help in emergencies



PHOTO: Sandy Aubrey

Frank Castermans, 254th BSB safety officer, right, is the patient while Oranje Kruis instructor, Anita Drissen shows a First responder Rob Walraven the finer points of bandaging. Schinnen's two teams of emergency aid volunteers are trained to handle a wide variety of injuries.

By Sandy Aubrey

Imagine you're rushing across the parking lot because you're late to pick up the kids, you're not watching your step and suddenly you slip on a patch of ice and go down like a ton of bricks and the pain in your right leg is excruciating. Who to call, what to do?

While no accident is good, folks on Schinnen are lucky

because they have two first responder teams of nine persons who are certified in first aid techniques.

Considering that the population on Schinnen during duty and business hours is about 500 people including customers, the post is considered to have a very good safety record. In the past fiscal year there were only two minor incidents reported and no sick leave was taken due

to accidents.

Statistics notwithstanding, the 254th Base Support Bn. is taking no chances and as mandated by Dutch law the post has volunteer first responders on hand who are prepared to provide emergency care and treatment of a sick or injured person. The measures taken by the first responders are not meant to replace proper medical diagnosis and treatment but consist of providing temporary support until professional medical assistance is available. Their goal is to save lives, prevent further injury, and to minimize or prevent infection. If there is an industrial accident or terrorist attack, first responders are also responsible for the evacuation of an area and they must set up a "verzamelplaats" or safe haven for the injured.

Throughout life people are faced with injuries of every kind. Whether it's a simple paper cut or a severe chemical burn, every accident must be dealt with in the right way. First responders are prepared to deal with a range of accidents like the typical bruises, cuts and scrapes of everyday life, along with the not-so-typical and more life-threatening accidents like puncture wounds and spurting cuts. They can treat burns, from mild sunburn to the severest kind. They're trained in what to do in case of anaphylactic shock, poisoning, choking, and of course, nature's encounters with bee stings and poison ivy.

While most of the accidents on the Schinnen installation fit into the minor categories, it's important to have people who know what to do when something more serious happens. Last year a contractor fell off scaffolding and required emergency care. In another instance, an employee collapsed while walking during his lunch break and had to be stabilized until the ambulance arrived.

"First responders here take their jobs very seriously and train regularly to ensure they have the necessary confidence to respond in an emergency situation with skills that can save a life," said Frank Castermans, safety manager. "Seven times a year a medic certified by Oranje Kruis (the Dutch version of the Red Cross) comes to Schinnen to provide training."

'atta way to go, Steelguard members!



PHOTOS: Sandy Aubrey

Fellow Minnesotan Melodee Burgess, left, and Sheila Moore, a Schinnen Bowling Center employee, give a big farewell to Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thate, NCOIC of the Schinnen complement of Task Force Steelguard. The Minnesota National Guardsmen were receiving well-wishers following the 254th Base Support Bn. ceremony March 4 to say farewell and thank you to Thate's fellow Soldiers. The Minnesota task force had been activated for a six-month tour providing force protection at U.S. military installations in Europe.

By Sandy Aubrey

SCHINNEN, Netherlands – Visitors to the Schinnen U.S. Army installation last week may have noticed new faces and unusual activity at the Schinnen main gate. That's because there are new players in town – members of Task Force Reaper Sentinel of the 1st Bn., 34th Field Artillery, Ohio Army National Guard.

The 11-man team arrived here March 1 to replace Task Force Steelguard from the Minnesota National Guard. As with the outgoing task force, the incoming team's mission is to

provide force protection augmentation to the 254th Base Support Bn.

The transition was smooth thanks to the efforts of the outgoing task force who acted as primary trainers for the newcomers and ensured they were intimately familiar with mission tasks, policies, and procedures.

On behalf of the Schinnen community, Lt. Col. Deborah Broughton, 254th BSB commander, thanked Task Force Steelguard for their dedication and professionalism during an awards ceremony March 4.



Staff Sgt. Kim Tolzmann, right, a member of Task Force Steelguard, gives Spec. Michael Jones of the incoming Task Force Reaper Sentinel, pointers March 3 on what to look for while inspecting cars.

School teaches entertainment



Brussels Parent Teacher Student Organization hosted their annual International Dinner and Show March 6 at Brussels American School with record attendance. The theme this year was "Young People of the World," as 310 students from 23 different countries attend the multi-national school. Members of the community shared a night of international cuisine and entertainment to benefit the school's PTO scholarship fund. BAS students opened the show with a "Parade of Nations", carrying flags from each country represented by the BAS student population, plus the Belgian flag. Lively singing and dancing performers included the elementary English as a Second Language students, second and fifth grade students, and Philippine, Ukrainian, Romanian and Mexican dancers. The community also enjoyed classical guitar and Paraguayan harp performances, and a Macedonian instrumental quintet. The community chorus wrapped up the evening with "Let There Be Peace on Earth".



PHOTOS: Dorothy Nevins



Getting prints of popular movie difficult for AAFES

DALLAS - As *The Passion of the Christ* continues to draw strong numbers at the box office of civilian CONUS theaters, America's military audience continues to wait for an opportunity to see the film. According to the Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) the overwhelming commercial success of the film is proving to be

tough news for military audiences. According to AAFES' Vice President of Food and Theater Richard Sheff, "the demand is outpacing copies of the film."

Since *The Passion of the Christ* opened, AAFES has been actively pursuing acquisition of the movie. Unfortunately, due to the film's commercial

success, AAFES has been unable to acquire prints for military audiences. "The civilian market has a lock on the film today," said Sheff. "It is our hope that Newmarket Films will either produce additional prints or allow AAFES to obtain existing prints as soon as possible."

Either way, AAFES officials are sure

that *The Passion of the Christ* will eventually make it to the military audience.

"Because of the film's success it is difficult to say when *The Passion* will be available," said Sheff. "As soon as the distributor releases prints to AAFES, marquees will read 'Now Showing,' *The Passion of the Christ*."

Brussels Community Calendar

ACS (02 717-9783) Metro Madness class March 26, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., and April 17, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; "Conflict-Reflections and Resolution" workshop March 23, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the NSA Chapel area; free computer classes at the Computer Lab — MS Word April 5, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., and MS PowerPoint, 1:30-5:30 p.m., MS Access April 6, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and MS Excel, 1:30-5:30 p.m. Toddler Play Group meets every Tuesday, 10 a.m.-noon in the CYS multipurpose room. The ACS Lending Closet now has microwaves available for in/outbound personnel. **NSA Sports and Fitness** (02 717-9667) Adult volleyball league team registration ends April 16. Coaches meeting is April 19, 1:30 p.m. Games begin April 21; Youth Sports Awards March 20, 10:30 a.m. in NSA Three Star Lounge. **Youth Services** (02 7179651) Parent advisory council meets March 25, 5-6 p.m., NSA Youth Center. **Outdoor Recreation** (02 717-9775 or 0474 683 544) Delft Factory Tour and Keukenhof March 27, 7 a.m.-9 p.m.; Paris April 3, 5 a.m.-11 p.m. Price is \$40 adults, \$33 children. **Education Center** (02 717-9704) ASAP Course (Managerial Planning) March 29-April 2, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; free French Head Start classes April 19-30, 9 a.m.-noon; VA education benefits briefing March 17, 1-2 p.m. in NSA commu-

nity computer lab.

Three Star Lounge (02 717-9822 or 9819) Movie night with free popcorn every Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; St. Patrick's Day party March 19, 5 p.m., \$5 per person with live music, green beer and party favors; "Breaking Silence", hot new community group performs March 19, 8 p.m.-midnight.

NSA Chapel (02 717-9708) Christian Protestant worship service with the celebration of Communion is every Sunday, 9-9:30 a.m.; Sunday school for all ages follows the service.

Multi-Craft Center (02 717-9629) NSA Auto Craft Shop offers: "Automotive Classes for Dummies," every Thursday, 7-9 p.m., by appointment only, cost is \$25, will teach general vehicle maintenance and dynamics; a six-week motorcycle class tailored specifically to your needs is \$45, meets every Wednesday, 7-9 p.m., by appointment only. NSA Multi-Craft Center offers: cross-stitching classes Wednesday afternoons, Saturday mornings or afternoons and Sunday afternoons; basic knitting classes, Fridays, 10 a.m.; and jewelry making classes, Wednesdays, 6 p.m. Call the Multi Craft Center for more info or to sign up.

For more information about events happening in the Brussels community, visit www.brussels.army.mil.



FILE PHOTO: Rick Haverinen

Sparky hopes to greet fans at Children's Wellness Fair

Sparky the Fire Dog is just one of the special guests expected at the The Children's Wellness Fair, April 3, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Community Activity Center on Chièvres Air Base. Besides Sparky, you'll find informational and educational booths set up by community services that normally have contact with children and families, and some that are there just to offer fun activities for the kids and their parents. In this file photo taken last August, Sparky gets a welcome from Holly Brown, 2, and her brother Alec, 7, in the Chièvres Air Base PX during National Night Out. For more information about the Children's Wellness Fair call Army Community Service, DSN 423-5263/4274 or civilian 065 44-5263/4274.

SHAPE and Chièvres Community Calendar

A Federal Voting Assistance Workshop is March 22, 9 a.m.-noon, at U.S. Army SHAPE, Building 318, American Community conference room. The workshop is designed to prepare voting assistance officers to assist U.S. citizens covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act. However, all who are interested are invited to attend. Poli Brunelli, Director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program of the Dept. of Defense, presents the workshop. Info: DSN 361-5590. **Chièvres Veterinary Clinic** will not be open Saturdays during March. The next Saturday clinic is April 17. The staff apologizes for any inconvenience. Info: DSN 361-5722 or civilian 068 27-5722.



Brunelli

80th ASG Directorate of Logistics invites you to the **Civilian Awards Ceremony** March 19, 2:30-3:30 p.m., in the auditorium, Building 30, Caserne Daumerie. 80th ASG DOL-Drivers Testing Station hosts a series of weekend **Motorcycle Safety Foundation courses** at Chièvres Air Base for active duty personnel. Specific course dates will be determined but will be held in the April-October timeframe. Info: DSN 423-3603.

If you are interested in making a **donation to the Food Locker Program**, you can drop off food donations at Army Community Service on SHAPE, Building 318; Grandma's Attic on Chièvres Air Base; or the WEB office, located inside the Hotel Maisières. The Food Locker Program will accept any unopened non-perishables as well as commissary gift checks. Info: Kimberly Henne, DSN 423-4824 or civilian 065 44-4824.

Child and Youth Services - A CYS parent advisory meeting is April 28, noon, in the Building 209 conference room; to re-register with CYS, bring a current health assessment and updated immunization records; registration fee of 16 Euro for the first child, 16 Euro for the second child and 5 Euro for the third child; names and phone numbers for three emergency designees; a copy of your "Family Care Plan" if parents are single or dual military; proof of current family income if you need a center or home-based child care program; an "Asthma Care Plan" if your child is asthmatic. Pick up a blank Asthma Care Plan Packet at the CYS office, Building 209. Info: CYS registration at SHAPE military 3874/4328.

D.A. photo studio relocates back to Daumerie Caserne, Building 70012, in its original location. Because of this move, the studio is closed for DA Photos March 24-April 6. Hours will still be 8 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m., Monday - Friday. On Thursdays, the Photo Studio/Training Support Center conducts in-house Training 8 a.m.-noon but the doors remain open for normal business. Customers can make their appointments anytime, especially those with promotion boards in the near future. Info: DSN 361-5209 or 361-5273.

A Spring Bazaar is held March 27, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., and March 28, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at SHAPE International School cafeteria. Sponsored by the scholarship committee, over 40 international vendors will display merchandise for sale. Info: Meri Ellis, 065 56 9423.

Army community Service — Invest for your future, March 23, 7 p.m., info: Army Community Service, DSN 423-4824 or civilian 065 44-4824; Balanced Diet on a Balanced Budget class is March 25, 10 a.m., info: DSN 423-4824/5971 or civilian 065.44.4824/5971. The 80th ASG **Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program** (SNAP) has developed the 80th ASG Communities Safety Survey that

measures needs and concerns of families residing in local housing areas. We ask that families take the time out to answer safety-related questions so that SNAP, the Provost Marshal's Office and the U.S. housing office can better serve your housing and safety needs. This survey will also be available online at <http://www.80asg.army.mil/SNAP/SNAP.htm>. To request a survey or if you have questions please contact Marcia DeVille, SNAP Program Coordinator, 068 27-6143 or at Marcia.DeVille@benelux.army.mil. **Report suspicious activity** or any safety concerns that you may have, and most importantly remain anonymous. Remember a Safe Neighborhood starts with Safe Soldiers, Safe Adults and Safe kids. Help SNAP keep 80th ASG and your community safe. SNAP Automated Hotline 068 27-6300. **Youth activities** - Parent Challenge, March 18, 4-6 p.m., double-elimination tournaments in pool, futsal, pingpong, or air hockey. Teams must consist of one parent/guardian and a middle school youth. Dinner 5-6 p.m.; Parents Night Out is March 24, 6-7:30 p.m., all you can eat spaghetti dinner is two Euro per person. Both events at Tween Center in Building 503. To register, call DSN 423-5611 or civilian 065 44-5611.

A publications training class for publications officers and clerks is April 8, 9 a.m.-noon, in the computer labs, Building 104, on Chièvres Air Base. Info: 1st Lt. April Davis, DSN 361-5154.

SHAPE Education Center news — University of Maryland's Term IV registration is now underway through March 26, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Students can view Term IV schedule and register at the Education Center in Building 212, Room 119, or Online at <http://www.ed.umuc.edu/index.php> Info: UMUC-Europe representatives at SHAPE Education Center, DSN 423-5173, civilian 065 44-5173; University of Phoenix is wel-

coming new students to begin their Master of Business Administration or a Master of Arts degrees in Education. Registration is now underway through March 26. Info: Tenisha Oldham, DSN 423.4645 and civilian 065 44-3466 or stop by the Education Center at Building 212, Room 113. Email: tenisha.oldham@phoenix.edu

The date for **reopening the SHAPE pool** has changed from March 29 to April 19. Info: SHAPE Main Gym, DSN 423-5540.

Blood drive — The Belgian Red Cross has a blood drive March 22, 9-11 a.m., at Hangar 4 in the commercial area on Chièvres Air Base. Info: Daniel Libre, DSN 361-5683.

Prime Time Lounge — Karaoke is March 18, 8 p.m. Building 7, Daumerie Caserne. Info: DSN 361-5540 or civilian 06827-5540.

Chièvres Library, Community Activity Center, Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. bring the kids for a fun filled time of story time and crafting. The library is now open Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Info: DSN 361-5767.

Get out the vote - Voting Assistance Guide is available on the Internet: <http://www.fvap.gov/>

Outdoor Recreation - Western style horseback riding trip in Chaleux, March 20, cost euro 37. Bus departs the SHAPE Community Activities Center at 8:30 a.m. Deep Sea Fishing, March 27, cost Euro 40 includes transportation and fee for fishing boat. Bldg 307, SHAPE. Info: 06544-5380 or DSN 423-5380.

U.S. Forces Powerlifting Championship is April 24, starting at 10 a.m., at Community Activity Center on Chièvres Air Base. SHAPE Main Gym is looking for men and women in the SHAPE/Chièvres community to compete. Info: DSN 423-4405/3923 or civilian 065 44-4405/3923.

Aviators Historical Walking Tour is May 1 on Chièvres Air Base. Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn about the history of the area while you exercise.

AER campaign starts next month

HEIDELBERG – In Europe, the Army’s annual fund-raising campaign for Army Emergency Relief (AER) will run April 1-May 15.

This year’s campaign goal is to achieve strong and command-committed support to ensure that 100 percent of eligible participants are solicited and given the opportunity to contribute.

In a memorandum for area support group commanders in Europe, Installation Management Agency – Europe Region Director Russell B. Hall recently explained what commanders must do in preparation for the campaign. Hall went on to say that for the past 62 years, AER has always been there when Soldiers and their families needed emergency financial assistance. “Last year AER provided more than 34 million dollars of direct assistance to some 50 thousand Soldiers and their families. This assistance was provided through interest-free loans, grants, and scholarships, all of which were made possible through generous individual contributions,” Hall said.

In order to prepare for the 2004 IMA-E AER fund-raising campaign, area support group commanders (ASG) will appoint an ASG coordinator, who will serve as point of contact for local campaign administration and publicity, and a campaign manager for each base support battalion (BSB) and each area support team (AST).

Soldiers wishing to contribute may do so through a monthly allotment from their pay or they may give a cash or check donation to the campaign coordinators in their BSB or AST. Contributors will receive receipts for their donations. All contributions are fully tax deductible.

AER provides commanders a valuable asset in accomplishing their basic command responsibility for the morale and welfare of soldiers. More detailed information about AER and their services to Soldiers and their families is available at <http://www.aerhq.org>

Outside looking in

Laura’s brother Tom cannot enter the world into which his sister retreats, but at the same time, he is the person she most trusts. Cpl. Ian Grainger, U.K. Air Force, and Hayley Heiniken, SHAPE High School, are shown in a rehearsal moment from Tennessee William’s “The Glass Menagerie,” which played the first weekend in March at SHAPE Entertainment Centre. Also in the cast were Grace Cesonis as Amanda and Staff Sgt. Trevor Pedro, U.S. Air Force, as Jim. Switching genres to lively musical comedy, SHAPE Entertainment Centre next stages “Seven Brides For Seven Brothers” March 19-28. For info or tickets call DSN 423-4257/3312 or civilian 065 44-4257/3312.

PHOTO: Rick Haverinen

New SOFA requirement only affects U.S. Forces personnel stationed in Germany

HEIDELBERG, Germany – Local passport offices in Germany have started issuing a new Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) certificate for Germany-based U.S. Forces to replace SOFA stamps in passports.

This procedure is only for U.S. Forces personnel in Germany, and not those in Belgium or the Netherlands.

“After decades of issuing rubber stamp or paper copy SOFA certificates with tourist passports for U.S. Forces personnel in Germany, the new certificate represents a dramatic step forward in modernizing our system,” said John Chaisson, 1st Personnel Command’s senior personal affairs specialist. “It replaces manual control logs with a computerized database and employs a hologram, special paper, and other security features.”

The new certificate is a separate laminated document that will be carried with the passport.

Active duty personnel do not need the certificate.

“However, civilians associated with the U.S. Forces – employees and family members who possess only a tourist passport must have their existing SOFA certificate replaced with the new one if they will still be in Germany after Jan. 15, 2005,” said Chaisson. “Only personnel with an official passport are exempt.”

German SOFA certificates do not apply to U.S. Forces assigned in Belgium or the Netherlands. U.S. Forces in this instance include all U.S. active duty personnel, their dependents, government civilians, U.S. contracted personnel, DoDDS, AAFES and DeCA employees. No action regarding the German SOFA certificate is needed by U.S. Forces personnel assigned in areas outside of Germany.

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when you have a lot of government vehicles in the PX parking lot every day at lunchtime, you can pretty much assume that it’s not all official business. And again, perception plays a big part. The public sees this, and it gets reported as abuse.”

Hammond said another problem with use of government vehicles is drivers who have an accident or damage the vehicles in other ways, but do not report it.

“We’ve got the misuse of people speeding, not taking care of the vehicles, or smoking in vehicles,” Hammond said. “This is all costing government tax dollars. In this community we’ve got an enormous bill for damages.”

The 80th ASG paid \$175,065 Oct. 2002-Oct. 2003 to repair vehicles damaged in traffic accidents.

“We catch people misusing vehicles because of dispatch logs so we know who uses them, and where they go,” Hammond said. “When (vehicles are) damaged, we file a report of survey to try and collect some of the money back. We’ve had 118 accidents in government vehicles last fiscal year in the 80th ASG, which again costs a lot of money. Sometimes we don’t know who caused the accidents. We find out the damage of the vehicle after the fact, and it’s causing problems.”

“One of the biggest problems we’re looking at, is not having folks perform the proper (preventive maintenance inspection) when they dispatch the vehicles,” said Master Sgt. Leroy Lee, Directorate of Logistics NCOIC. “They’re not annotating if there was any damages on the vehicles, or if there wasn’t. They’re bringing the vehicles back, they’re being damaged, and a lot of time they’re not notifying us.”

According to Hughes penalties for misuse of government vehicles can range from non-judicial punishment to court martial for active duty members, and a letter of reprimand to termination for civilian employees.

“Anytime anyone has a question, they can always contact the transportation division as far as authorized uses, and get a clarification whether any kind of use is authorized or not,” Lee said.

The telephone numbers for information at the 80th ASG’s transportation division are DSN 423-4571, civilian 065 44 4571; or DSN 423-4053, civilian 065 44 4053. The number for the 254th Base Support Bn. dispatch office is DSN 360-7317 and the number for NSA Brussels information is DSN 368-9797.

Legal questions concerning vehicle misuse can be directed to Maj. Michael Devine, Northern Law Center Deputy Judge Advocate, at DSN 423-4910, civilian 065 44 4910.

Benelux Meteor Deadline and Publication Dates							
Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date
Mar 29	Apr 8	Apr 26	May 6	May 24	Jun 3	Jun 28	July 8
Apr 12	Apr 22	May 10	May 20	Jun 7	Jun 17	July 12	July 22

About Us

Benelux Meteor

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Policy

- We invite and encourage letters to the editor, but they must be signed. We will consider withholding the name of the author upon request, but we will not print any anonymous letters.
- We reserve the right to edit letters to make them fit the allotted space, to remove libelous material and to correct grammar. Letters should contribute to the informational interest of the issue in question.
- Articles and photographs may be submitted for consideration but publication depends upon the judgment of the editor.
- Community-related event announcements must use civilian dates and times. Spell out acronyms initially and include a point of contact, telephone number and e-mail address.
- All submissions are subject to editing.

Advertising

- Messages from readers from profit and non-profit organizations which involve money exchange constitutes advertising.
- Neither the *Benelux Meteor* staff nor other public affairs personnel can accept advertising requests.
- The appearance of advertising, including inserts, does not constitute endorsement of the products or services offered. Everything advertised must be available for purchase, use or patronage, without discrimination.

- Any gambling or lottery requiring payment for chance cannot be advertised as stated in 18 U.S.C. 1302.

Deadline

Copy and photographs are due by noon 10 calendar days before publication date.

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LTC Jon M. Davis Jr.	NATO Support Activity
Public Affairs Officers and personnel	
Marie-Lise Baneton	80th Area Support Group
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Rick Haverinen	Editor
F. Neil Neeley	Writer
Sandy Aubrey	Writer

Puppet show helps students learn about personal challenges



Kids On the Block character Mark is in a wheelchair. "Can you race down the hallway at 30 miles an hour? Well, I can."



PHOTOS: F. Neil Neeley

Janice Williams and Peter Hako of the Benelux Kids on the Block puppet troupe rehearse for their March 4 performance. The puppet plays teach kindness and respect.

By F. Neil Neeley

Learning how to feel positive and accept individual differences of others can be fun when you have puppets teaching you how.

The Benelux troupe of Kids on the Block gave a performance at SHAPE American Elementary School March 4. The play helped the students to be candid with their questions and concerns about physically and intellectually challenged children.

The puppeteers employ the Bunraku style of puppetry from Japanese theater. "We are dressed in black to represent the puppet's shadow," said puppeteer Colleen Luzier. "Hopefully we become invisible to the audience and they focus on the puppets as the actors."

Judging by the reaction of the children in the audience, the show was a huge success.



Sarah Tripplehorn tries to button a shirt wearing thick socks on her hands to gain insight into living with a handicap.



So have you brought your best chapeaus? Where are they worn, do you suppose? You think they're put upon your head? I think they're worn on SHAPE instead!



Danielle Graves is covered with a patriotic bunting in her Auntie Samantha hat.



Chloe Rasic ponders in pink while Lillian De Solis' passengers are floating safe and dry.



The Dr. Seuss children's books inspired Read Across America, an international celebration to attract children to a literate lifestyle. A favorite Seuss character is the Cat In the Hat, and those hats have a way of multiplying...



Anna Jozwiak reads about dinosaurs and first grade teacher Angela Randall jestfully helps Nick Martin.



PHOTOS: F. Neil Neeley

READ ACROSS AMERICA
SHAPE American Elementary School March 2